

green  
home**remodel  
guides***helping you  
create a  
healthy home  
and a healthy  
environment*

*Green elements enhance a home's value: 80 percent of homebuyers say new homes don't meet their environmental expectations, and 96 percent say they are willing to pay more for a home with green features.*

—Photo courtesy of JAS Design Build

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency includes poor indoor air quality on the list of the top five most urgent public health risks. In fact, levels of air pollution inside a home can be two to five times higher than outdoor levels.

The February 2004 issue of dpdINFO featured Nordheim Court, the University of Washington's (UW) cost-effective new sustainable student housing project. This month we focus on a new series of green home remodeling guides published by Seattle Public Utilities and the reasons green home remodeling is such a good idea.

**New Remodeling Guides Show What a Green Home Can Do for You and the Planet**

Seattle Public Utilities recently published the first four in a series of green home remodeling guides designed to promote green building to Seattle businesses and residents. The titles available include an introduction to the series and the concept of green building, plus three project-specific guides for kitchen, bath and laundry, and roofing.

The "Green Home Remodel" series will eventually expand to cover paints and finishes, landscape materials, and other common home projects.

**Why Green Remodeling?**

Green remodeling is becoming increasingly important, due to the enormous impact that residential housing has on waste generation, electricity, heating fuel, and water consumption, material use, and air and water pollution.

In 2002, Americans spent \$173 billion on remodeling. With this level of investment directed towards healthy and resource efficient building materials, energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention, homeowners can help create a more sustainable community and economy.

A green home remodel approaches home improvement with several goals—not only making your home look better, but making it work better, both for you and for the environment. With careful planning, you can create a home that combines beauty, efficiency, comfort and convenience with health and conservation.

A green home remodel will benefit you and your family in many ways:

- Energy efficient and water wise designs and products reduce monthly utility bills.
- Low-toxic materials and proper ventilation techniques promote good health by reducing the risk of asthma and other respiratory problems.
- Natural materials, high quality lighting, and good design details make for pleasing spaces.
- Green elements enhance a home's value: 80 percent of homebuyers say new homes don't meet their environmental expectations, and 96 percent say they are willing to pay more for a home with green features.

By adopting green building strategies for home remodel projects you can participate with the City as we strive to meet environmental goals, including:

See **green home remodel** on page 2

## green home remodel, *cont. from page 1*

- promoting waste reducing and recycling,
- conserving energy and waste,
- protecting surface water quality,
- safeguarding occupant health, and
- increasing demand for green buildings materials, products and services in Seattle.

## Typical Elements of Green Homes

Green homes don't have to look any different from typical homes. The Built Green™ kitchen remodel in Seattle's Greenlake neighborhood that is featured in the "Green Home Remodel" series includes a variety of elements you might expect to see:

- sustainably harvested wood trim
- recycled-content wallboard and insulation
- proper ventilation
- low-toxic finishes
- water efficient faucet
- ample natural light
- recycled plastic decking (outdoors)
- low-toxic paint
- energy- and water-efficient appliances

## Expert Remodeling Assistance Available

If you are looking for professionals with experience designing and constructing green homes, turn to the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild or Built Green™.

The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild maintains the Green Pages, a directory of members and the services they provide that include architects, builders, subcontractors, and suppliers. Built Green™ is a green building program developed by the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties.

The Built Green™ program is organized into four checklists of strategies to make homes healthier, more efficient and easier on the environment. These checklists include remodeling projects, new home construction, multifamily buildings, and neighborhood developments.

## Getting Copies of the Green Home Remodel Series

Printed versions of Seattle Public Utilities' recently published "Green Home Remodel" guides are available at community centers, the Environmental Home Center (and an expanding list of retailers), and the DPD Public Resource Center, located on the 20th floor of Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 Fifth Ave. They are also being placed in City of Seattle Neighborhood Service Centers and branch libraries.

Electronic versions in PDF format can also be downloaded from [www.seattle.gov/sustainablebuilding/greenhome.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/sustainablebuilding/greenhome.htm).

## SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

*A green kitchen doesn't have to look any different from a typical kitchen. The kitchen below features energy- and water-efficient appliances, sustainably harvested wood, proper ventilation, and low-toxic finishes.*

— Photo courtesy of Robert Harrison Architects



## Learn More About Sustainability & Green Building

Sustainability principles emphasize providing for our own needs, while ensuring that future generations can also provide for theirs. A sustainable community has a thriving local economy, healthy environment, and good quality of life for all.

Green remodeling supports sustainability goals by promoting local businesses and the use of goods and services that are non-polluting. It is also respectful of Pacific Northwest resources.

You can learn more about the City's Sustainable Building Program at [www.seattle.gov/sustainablebuilding](http://www.seattle.gov/sustainablebuilding) and about Seattle Public Utilities' conservation programs at [www.seattle.gov/util/RESCONS](http://www.seattle.gov/util/RESCONS).

To learn about the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild visit [www.ecobuilding.org](http://www.ecobuilding.org), or to find a builder who is a Built Green™ member visit [www.builtgreen.net](http://www.builtgreen.net).

To explore DPD's role in sustainable building, visit [www.seattle.gov/dpd/sustainability](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/sustainability) or contact:

**Lynne Barker, DPD  
Sustainable Building Specialist  
[lynne.barker@seattle.gov](mailto:lynne.barker@seattle.gov)  
(206) 684-0806**